

REMARKS

In the Communication, the Examiner objected to Applicant's Amendment filed July 24, 2003 ("the July Amendment") as being not fully responsive to the prior Office Action for failing to indicate support for new Figs. 5A, 5B, and 5C, and the description thereof in the specification. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's contention that the July Amendment is non-responsive. In the Remarks of the July Amendment, Applicant stated that "[t]he amendment to the specification is supported at least by the language of claims 7, 36, and 37 as originally filed." (July Amendment, page 17, first full paragraph). For the support of new Figs. 5A, 5B, and 5C, Applicant stated that "[a]pplicant is submitting concurrently herewith a proposed drawing correction showing the features of claims 7, 36, and 37." (July Amendment, page 17, second full paragraph). A copy of page 17 of the July Amendment with the relevant portions underlined is attached as Exhibit A for the Examiner's convenience. Figs. 5A, 5B, and 5C are fully supported at least by originally filed claims 7, 36, and 37. MPEP § 2163 (I) states that "[i]t is now well accepted that a satisfactory description may be in the claims or any other portion of the originally filed specification." (MPEP § 2163(I), page 2100-159, col. 2 (February 2003)). Accordingly, Applicant submits that the July Amendment sufficiently states support for the addition of Figs. 5A, 5B, and 5C and the amendment of the specification relating to Figs. 5A, 5B, and 5C.

The Examiner also objected to the drawing changes because they were not shown in red. 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 requires that changes to the drawings shall be explained "in either the drawing amendment or the remarks section of the amendment paper." (37 C.F.R. § 1.121). Applicant explained that Fig. 10 was being amended to

add the reference number 220 in the drawing amendment section of the July Amendment. Applicant notes that 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d) does not require Applicant to submit proposed drawing corrections in red except when requested by the Examiner. (See, 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d)(2)). Applicant understands the Examiner's remarks in the Communication concerning drawing changes as a request under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d)(2) for drawing changes in red. Accordingly, Applicant is providing in the Appendix to this Amendment a drawing sheet showing the addition of reference number 220 to Fig. 10 in red. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant is also providing a drawing sheet showing the changes to Figs. 5A, 5B, and 5C in red.

Applicant submits that the July Amendment is fully responsive as filed and respectfully requests the Examiner to so indicate in the next Action.

To the extent any extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is required to obtain entry of this reply, such extension is hereby respectfully requested. If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 which are not enclosed herewith, including any fees required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1066.

Respectfully submitted,

MARTIN & FERRARO, LLP

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By: Thomas H. Martin
Thomas H. Martin
Registration No. 34,383

1557 Lake O'Pines Street, NE
Hartville, Ohio 44632
Telephone: 330-877-0700
Facsimile: 330-877-2030



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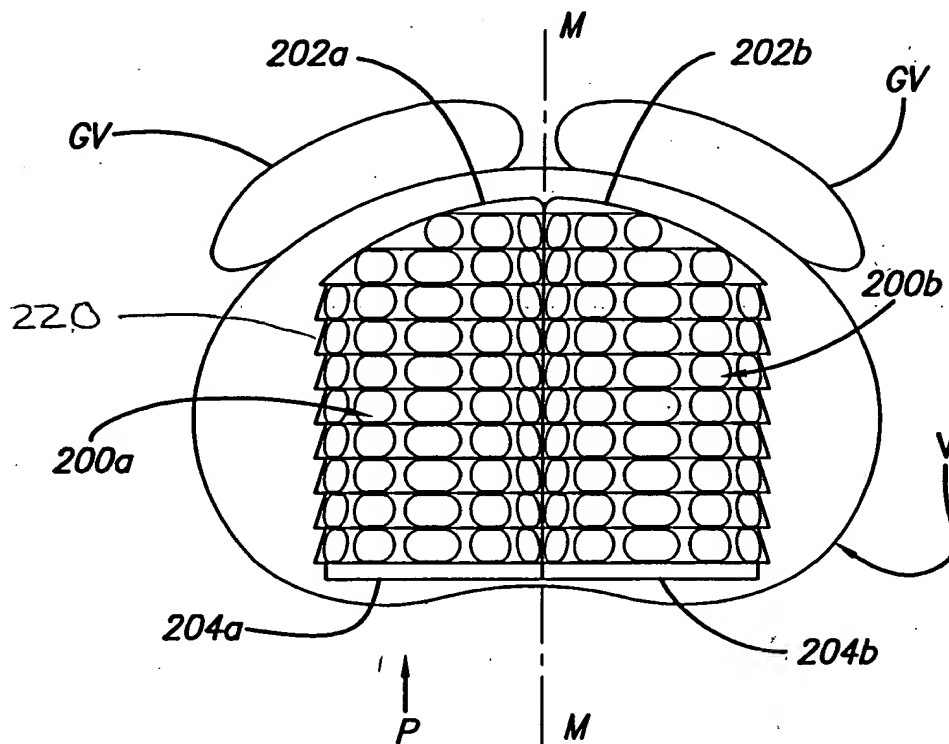


FIG. 10

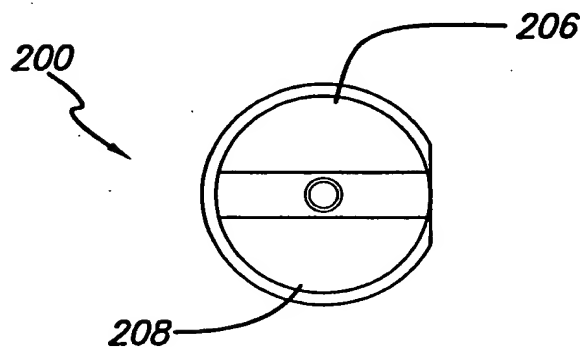


FIG. 11

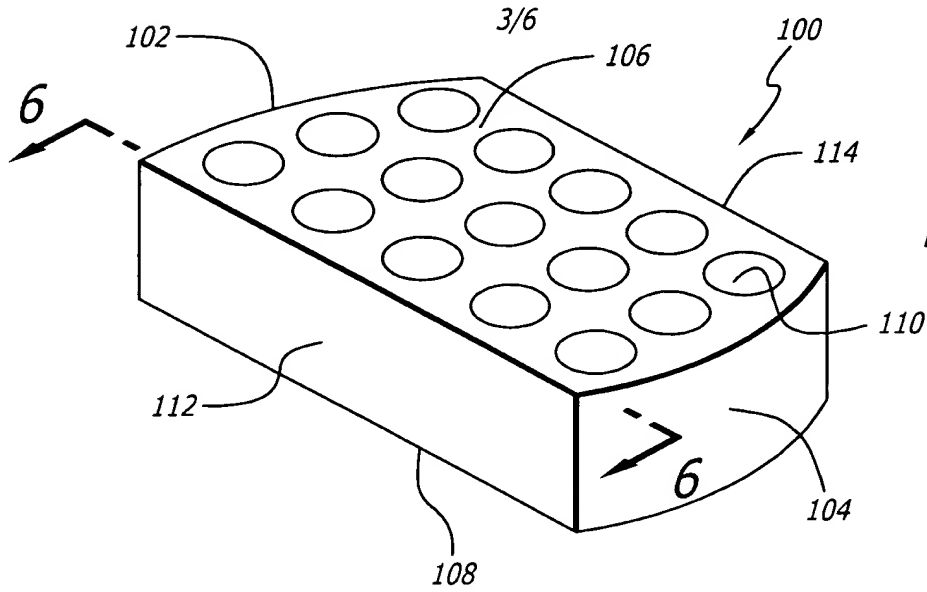


FIG. 5

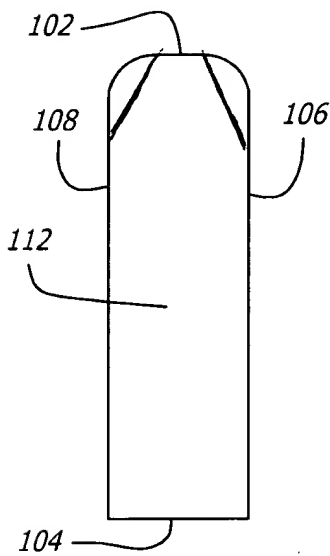


FIG. 5A

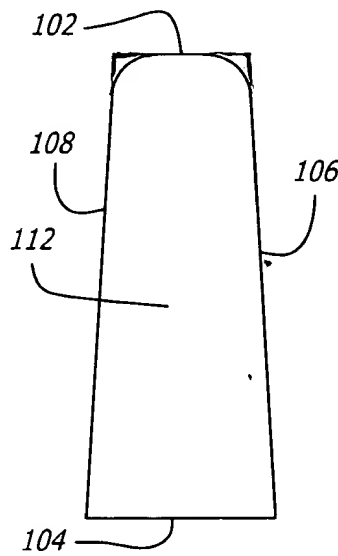


FIG. 5B

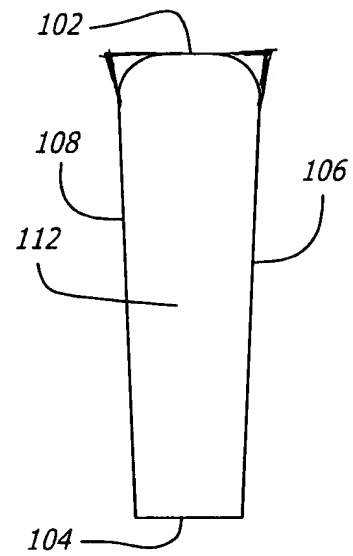


FIG. 5C

FIG. 6

